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*PH* 4/5/05



# Alabama

All 50 State Seals

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## The Great Seal of Alabama



The Great Seal of Alabama was approved by the Alabama Senate and House in 1939. The seal prominently displays the words "Alabama Great Seal" in the outer circle. The inner circle of the seal features an outline of the state of Alabama showing the state's major rivers, as well as the adjacent states.

Interestingly, this version of the seal had actually been used prior to 1939 way back in 1819 when Alabama first became a state.

Even before that, the same seal was used when Alabama was just a territory. The first seal of the state of Alabama lasted from 1819 for 50 years, until the legislature decided that a new seal was needed during the Reconstruction period. The original seal was scrapped, and a new one featuring the U.S. seal and an eagle became the official seal, lasting until 1939.

That's when the original seal regained the approval of the legislature, and the first "Alabama Great Seal" became law again.

Seal of the state

[Official coat of arms, general description](#)

[Official coat of arms, heraldic terms](#)

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**Section 1-2-1****Official coat of arms - General description.**

Alabama shall have an official coat of arms which shall be as follows: a shield upon which is carried the flags of four of the five nations which have at various times held sovereignty over a part or the whole of what is now the State of Alabama: Spain, France, Great Britain and the Confederacy. The union binding these flags shall be the shield of the United States. The shield upon which the flags and shield of the United States are placed shall be supported on either side by an eagle. The crest of the coat of arms shall be a ship representing the "Badine" which brought the French colonists who established the first permanent white settlements in the state. Beneath the shield there shall be a scroll containing the sentence in Latin: "Audemus jura nostra defendere," the English interpretation of which is "We Dare Maintain Our Rights." The word "Alabama" shall appear beneath the state motto.

*(Acts 1939, No. 140, p. 176; Code 1940, T. 55, §1.)*

## The Alabama Great Seal



Graphic provided by [Information Services Division, Ala. Dept. of Finance](#)

In 1817, when William Wyatt Bibb was appointed Governor of the brand new Alabama territory, Bibb realized he needed an official seal for his commissions and other state papers. With permission of President James Monroe and a law adopted by Congress, the territorial governor was authorized to select a design for a seal. [Governor Bibb](#) believed the best seal would be a map of the territory showing its rivers. It also showed the territories (now states) surrounding it.

By 1819, when Alabama became a state, the territorial seal was designated by the first legislature as the state seal. The state seal remained unchanged for 50 years, until the Reconstruction period when a Republican-dominated legislature had a new seal made. It consisted of an eagle perched upon the shield of the United States seal. In the beak of the eagle was a banner reading "[Here We Rest](#)". Around the new emblem were the words "Alabama Great Seal". This seal was used for 71 years to authenticate official documents and letterhead.

In 1939, a bill was introduced by the legislature to restore the original seal as the Great Seal of Alabama. When the bill came up it was approved unanimously by the Senate and the House. [Governor Frank M. Dixon](#) approved the new law and the Secretary of State had a new Great Seal created. Act no. 20.

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**Sources:**

Act 1868-133, *Acts of Alabama*, December 29, 1868

Act 39-20, *Acts of Alabama*, April 5, 1939

*Alabama State Emblems*, Alabama Department of Archives and History, nd.

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Updated: March 10, 2005

[http://www.archives.state.al.us/emblems/gt\\_seal.html](http://www.archives.state.al.us/emblems/gt_seal.html)

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**Alabama Department of Archives & History**

**624 Washington Avenue**

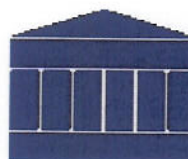
**Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0100**

**Phone: (334) 242-4435**

**E-**

**[Mail:debbie.pendleton@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:debbie.pendleton@archives.alabama.gov)**

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# Alaska

All 50 State Seals

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## The Great Seal of Alaska



The official seal of the State of Alaska is an elaborate representation of the state's natural resources and economic assets. The seal is 2 1/8 inches in diameter, and consists of two concentric circles surrounding intricate detailed images. The outer circle contains the words "The Seal of the State of Alaska" and two images, a seal and a fish, representing Alaska's abundant marine wildlife.

The inner circle shows the mix of Alaska's natural and industrial wealth. The Northern Lights radiate over the top of majestic mountains. Sailing ships navigate the waters. Industry and rail transportation, timber production, and agriculture are all shown on the seal. Abundant natural resources, and bustling economic activity are the themes that burst to life on Alaska's splendid seal.

[Seal of Alaska.](#)

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# Student Information

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## State Symbols

### STATE NICK NAME

"The Last Frontier" - The name Alaska is derived from the Aleut word "Alyeska," meaning "great land."

### STATE CAPITAL

Juneau, located in the southeast region of Alaska, has a population of 30,684.

[Click here for more information from the Juneau Convention and Visitors Bureau.](#)

Please note that this is a visitor-oriented link, not a research site. Also, find interesting stuff at represent Alaska as a land of promise. the [Capital City Homepage](#). Get the flavor of the city by visiting <http://www.juneau.com/>.

### STATE MOTTO

"North to the Future"

Our motto was chosen in 1967 during the Alaska Purchase Centennial and was created by Juneau newsman Richard Peter. The motto is meant to

### OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAYS

<b>Seward's Day</b>	Last Monday in March	Seward's Day commemorates the signing of the treaty by which the United States bought Alaska from Russia, signed on March 30, 1867.
<b>Alaska Day</b>	October 18	Alaska Day is the anniversary of the formal transfer of the territory and the raising of the US. flag at Sitka on October 18, 1867.

### STATE SEAL

The state seal was originally designed in 1910 while Alaska was a territory and not a state. The rays above the mountains represent the Northern

Lights. The smelter symbolizes mining. The train stands for Alaska's railroads, and ships denote transportation by sea. The trees symbolize Alaska's wealth of forests, and the farmer, his horse, and the three shocks of wheat represent Alaskan agriculture. The fish and the seals signify the importance of fishing



### FLAG



The blue field is for the sky and the forget-me-not, the state flower. The North Star is for the future of the state of Alaska, the most northerly of the Union. The dipper is for the Great Bear, symbolizing strength.



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# Arkansas

## The Great Seal of Arkansas



The official statutes of the state of Arkansas describe the state seal as follows:

It shall be the duty of the Governor to procure a seal for the State of Arkansas, which shall present the following impressions, devices, and emblems, to wit: An eagle at the bottom, holding a scroll in its beak, inscribed "Regnat Populus", a bundle of arrows in one claw and an olive branch in the other; a shield covering the breast of the eagle, engraved with a steamboat at top, a beehive and plow in the

middle, and sheaf of wheat at the bottom; the Goddess of Liberty at the top, holding a wreath in her right hand, a pole in the left hand, surmounted by a liberty cap, and surrounded by a circle of stars outside of which is a circle of rays; the figure of an angel on the left, inscribed "Mercy", and a sword on the right hand, inscribed "Justice", surrounded with the words "Seal of the State of Arkansas".

State [Statute](#).

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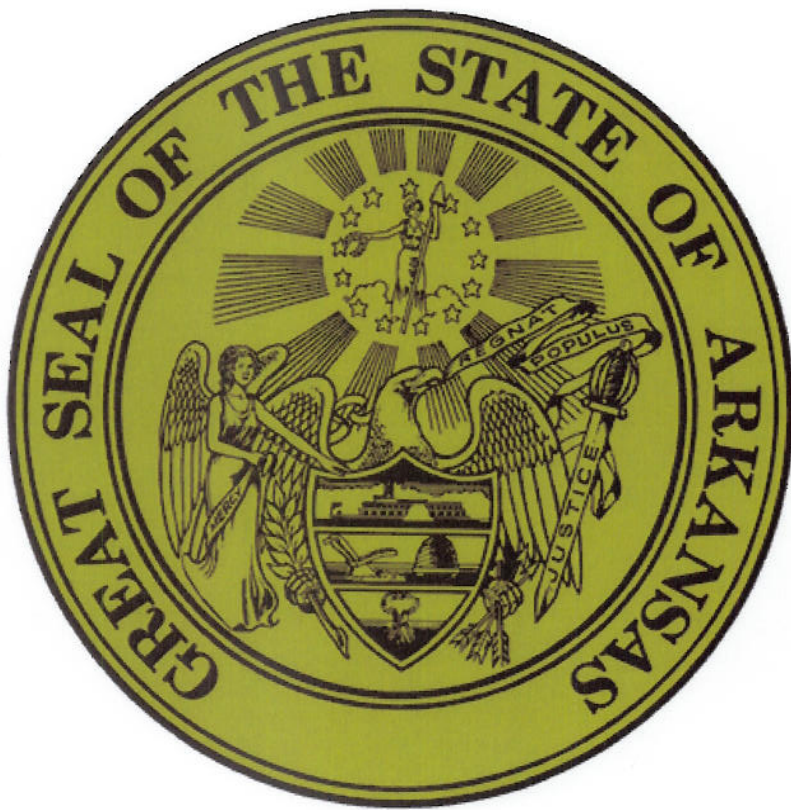
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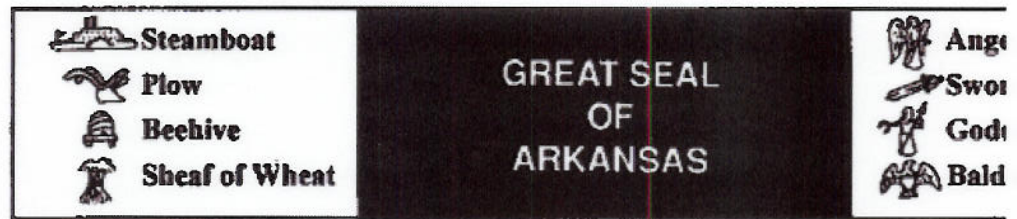
State Capitol, Rm 256  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
501-682-1010  
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## Our State Seal

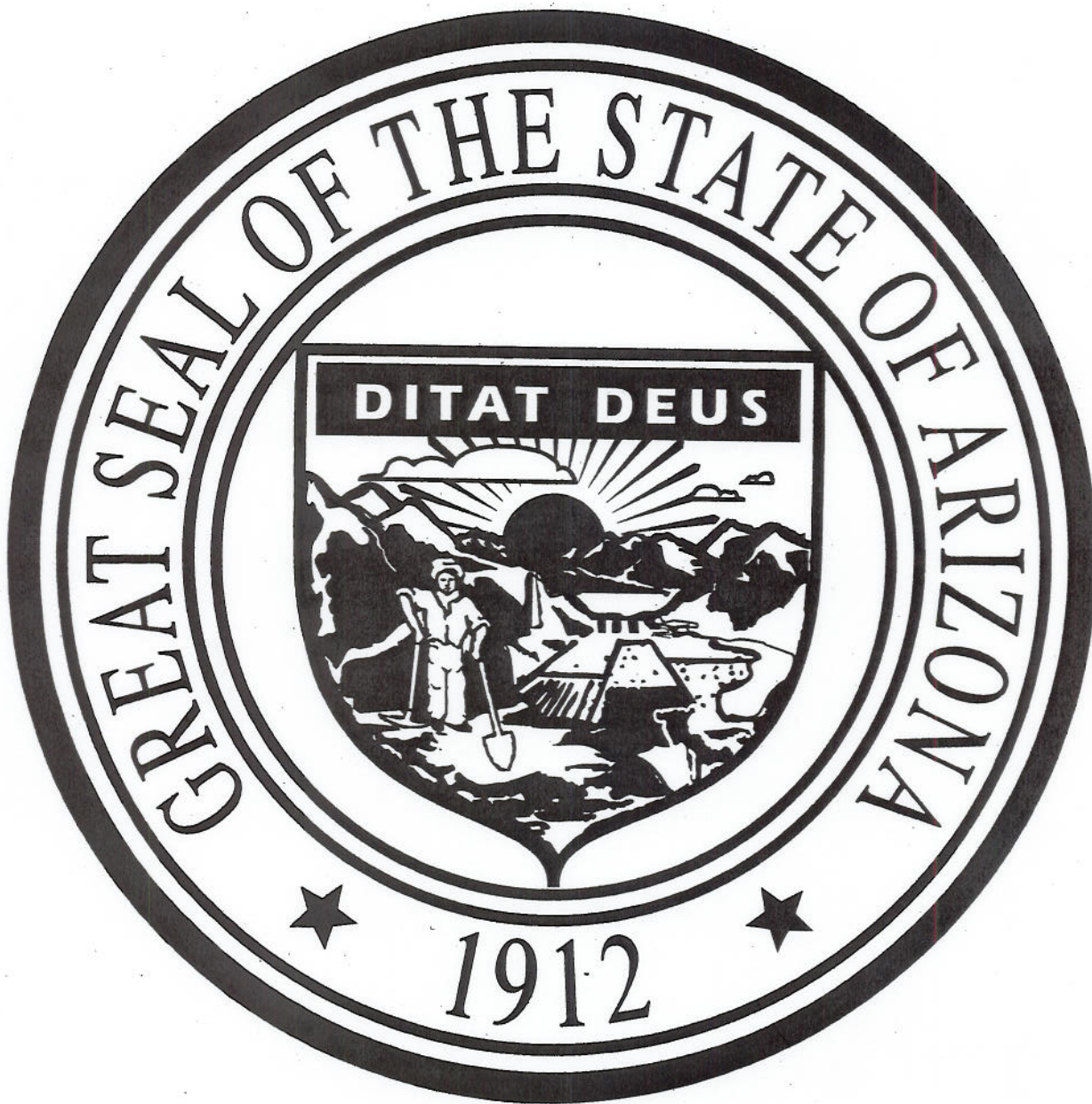
[\(Click here for a color photo.\)](#)





On the shield of our state seal are a steamboat, a plow, a beehive and a sheaf of wheat, representing Arkansas' industrial and agricultural wealth. The Angel of Mercy, the Sword of Justice, the Goddess of Liberty surround a bald eagle. The eagle holds in its beak a scroll inscribed with the phrase "Regnat Populus", our state motto, which means "The People Rule". The seal was in its basic form in 1864, and in its present form in 1907.

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# Arizona

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## The Great Seal of Arizona



Arizona's great seal is ringed by the words "Great Seal of the State of Arizona" on the top, and "1912", the year of Arizona's statehood, on the bottom. The motto *Ditat Deus*, "God Enriches", lies in the center of the seal. Under the motto is a scene that portrays Arizona's landscape, climate, and industry. A miner stands in the hills with his pick axe and shovel. In the distance, a brilliant sun rises over the hills. And below, a fertile irrigated field springs to life.

[Article 22, Section 20](#), Design of the State Seal from the Arizona State Consitution.

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# Arizona State Seal






Arizona's main enterprises and attractions are represented in the seal. In the background of the seal is a range of mountains with the sun rising behind the peaks. At the right side of the mountains is a water storage reservoir and a dam, with irrigated fields and orchards. There are cattle grazing on the right, and a quartz mill and a miner with a pick and shovel on the left.

**State Motto: "Ditat Deus," meaning "God Enriches"**

e-news sign up: **GO****FIND BY CATEGORY****ARIZONA KIDS**

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Facts About Arizona	
Year of Statehood:	1912
Population:	5,629,870 (July 1, 2003 estimate)
State Capitol:	Phoenix
State Motto:	Ditat Deus (God Enriches)
Largest City:	Phoenix
State Nickname:	Grand Canyon State
State Size:	113,909 square miles
State Flag:	<p>The lower half of the flag is a blue field, the upper half divided into thirteen equal segments, six light yellow and seven red. In the center of the flag is a copper-colored five-point star. The red and the blue are the same shades as the flag of the United States of America, and it measures four feet high and six feet wide. The flag was designed by Charles W. Harris and first sewn by Nan D. Hayden. Blue and yellow are the Arizona colors, and red and yellow the colors of the Spanish Conquistadores headed by Coronado who first came to Arizona in 1540. The copper star represents Arizona as the largest producer of copper in the nation.</p> 
State Seal:	<p>Arizona's main enterprises and attractions are represented in the seal. In the background of the seal is a range of mountains with the sun rising behind the peaks. At the right side of the mountains is a water storage reservoir and a dam, with irrigated fields and orchards. There are cattle grazing on the right, and a quartz mill and a miner with a pick and shovel on the left.</p> 
State Songs:	"Arizona March Song" and "Arizona"
State Flower:	<p>Blossom of the Saguaro cactus. This pure white flower blooms on the tips of the saguaro cactus during May and June</p> 



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# California

## The Great Seal of California



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### Eureka!

Under the gaze of Minerva, the Roman goddess of wisdom, a miner works near the Sacramento River. A grizzly bear rests at her feet and ships ply the river. The Sierra Nevada mountains rise in the background. Wildlife, agriculture, natural beauty, commerce, and opportunity are all represented on California's Great Seal.

The state motto, *Eureka*, sits over the mountains. A Greek word that means "I have found it," *Eureka* refers the discovery of gold in California. The miner, working with a pick, is another reference to the gold that was found in California. A pan and a rocker are also depicted on the seal near the miner. The pan was used to separate the gold from the dirt; just add water. The rocker is a larger and more sophisticated "pan." It allowed miners to process more dirt and sand faster. At the time the seal was designed, people were coming from all over the world looking to "strike it rich" in the gold fields.

Virtually all of the products coming in and out of California were carried over water routes at the time the seal was designed. Mining supplies, letters from home, luxuries, household items, and gold were all carried on ships. From the eastern United States, ships sailed south around Cape Horn and north to California. The ships, on a representation of the Sacramento River, symbolize the commercial greatness of California.

A sheaf of grain in the foreground represents California's agricultural wealth. In fact, many who came looking for gold found farming more profitable. Today, California is an agricultural giant among the states.

At the feet of Minerva, stands the California grizzly bear. A symbol of strength and independence, the grizzly bear is the Official State Animal and is the prominent feature on the California [State Flag](#). Grizzly bears were, at one time, common in the state but the mass movement of people into California during the gold rush strained their habitat and caused their numbers to decline sharply. Today there are no wild grizzly bears left in California.

The seal was designed by Major R. S. Garnett of the U.S. Army, and adopted at the Constitutional Convention of 1849 before California became a state in June 1850. At the time of the seal's adoption, thirty states comprised the United States. Near the upper edge of the seal are 31 stars, anticipating California's admission. The original 1849 design is depicted to the right.



In 1937 minor changes were made to the seal.

State [Statute](#).

[Click here](#) for larger version of 1849 seal.

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### State Reptile



Under a full head of steam, the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizii*) moves at of about 20 feet per minute. This patient vegetarian has existed on Earth almost unchanged for millions of years. It is found in the southwestern desert areas where it now enjoys protected status as an endangered species. The desert played a key role in the passage of the California Desert Protection Act in 1990. The fragile desert habitat of the tortoise and other plants and animals, millions were added to the national park and wilderness system. Supporters reportedly brought a desert to White House for the bill signing. The tortoise has been the official State Reptile since 1972.

### State Rock



California has a greater number of minerals and a wider variety of rock types than any other state. Serpentine, a shiny, green and blue rock found throughout California, was named the official State Rock in 1965. It contains the state's principal deposits of magnesite, and cinnabar. California was the first state to designate a State Rock.

### State Seal



The Constitutional Convention of 1849 adopted the Great Seal of the State of California. The seal was designed by Major R. S. Garnett of the United States Army, and by Caleb Lyon, a clerk of the convention. The Roman goddess of wisdom, Minerva, has her feet a grizzly bear and clusters of grapes representing wildlife and agricultural richness. A miner works near the busy Sacramento River, below the Sierra Nevada. The Greek word "Eureka" meaning "I have found it", probably refers to the mineral discovery of gold. Near the upper edge of the seal are 31 stars representing the states with California's anticipated admission. Just as Minerva sprang full-grown from the head of Jupiter, California became a state on September 9, 1850, without having passed through a territorial stage.

### State Soil

The San Joaquin Soil was designated as the official state soil in 1997. The designation commemorates the completion of the state's most comprehensive soil inventory and acknowledges the importance of soil to California's agriculture.

### State Song



[Listen to MIDI](#)

California's official state song is "I Love You, California", written by F.B. Silverwood, an Angeles merchant. The words were subsequently put to music by Alfred Frankenstein, conductor for the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra. It was the official song of ex-patriots of San Francisco and San Diego in 1915, and was played aboard the first ship to go through the Panama Canal. In 1951, the State Legislature passed a resolution designating it as the state song. During the years following, several attempts were made to make other songs the official state song. Finally, in 1988, "I Love You, California" became the official state song by law.

#### *I Love You, California*

I.

*I love you, California, you're the greatest state of all.  
I love you in the winter, summer, spring and in the fall.  
I love your fertile valleys; your dear mountains I adore.  
I love your grand old ocean and I love her rugged shore.*

#### **Chorus**

*Where the snow crowned Golden Sierras  
Keep their watch o'er the valleys bloom,*